AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating freight shipment between a first geographic location and a second geographic location, said system comprising:

computer hardware including a program storage medium; and

computer software stored in said storage medium and readable by said computer hardware, said computer software including:

code for displaying a browser window, said browser window including at least a first data section configured to display derivative contract data pertaining to shipment capacity offered by carriers between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said derivative contract data being associated with at least one of an air mode, a sea mode, a train mode, and a truck mode, said browser window further including at least a second data section configured to be viewed simultaneously with said first data section, said second data section displaying forecast data pertaining to demand forecasts between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said forecast data being provided by shippers,

code for receiving shipper assessment of accuracy of said forecast data from said shippers,

code for sorting said forecast data by geography,

code for sorting actual data by geography,

code for comparing said forecast data with said actual data to calculate a forecast quality index, and

code for publishing said shipper assessment and said forecast quality index.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said computer software further includes:

code for receiving information restriction requirements from at least a participant, said information restriction requirements limiting a first specified information set to a first specified recipient set, said information restriction requirements limiting a second specified information set to a second specified recipient set, said first specified information set and said second

specified information set pertaining to said participant, said first specified information set and said second specified information set being stored in said database, said participant representing at least one of a shipping party, a carrying party, a forwarding party, and a market making party;

code for providing said first specified information set to at least a recipient of said first specified recipient set based on said information restriction requirements, said first specified information set including at least one of shipment data and shipment forecast data;

code for providing said second specified information set to at least a recipient of said second specified recipient set based on said information requirements; and

code preventing a party not in said first specified recipient set from viewing said first specified information set.

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said second data section further includes rating data associated with said forecast data, each rating in said rating data reflects at least one of a qualitative assessment of a forecast associated with said each rating and a quantitative assessment of said forecast associated with said each rating.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said qualitative assessment represents an aggregated value that takes into account qualitative assessments from different shippers.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said qualitative assessment is associated with a shipper that furnishes said forecast associated with said each rating and wherein said second data section includes an identity of said shipper that furnishes said forecast associated with said each rating.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said qualitative assessment includes at least four of a set of criteria that includes demand, manufacturing readiness, manufacturing location, capacity, product, lane, and lane stability.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said derivative contract data represents futures contract data.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said derivative contract data represents option contract data.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the browser window further includes at least a third data section configured to display unfulfilled derivative contract order data, said third data section being configured to be view simultaneously with said first data section and said second data section.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the browser window further includes at least a third data section configured to display matched derivative contract order data.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the browser window further includes at least a third data section configured to display unfulfilled derivative contract order data and a fourth data section configured to display successfully matched derivative contract order data, said third data section and said fourth data section being configured to be view simultaneously with said first data section and said second data section.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein a displayed data item in said derivative contract data represents a plurality of capacity offers from at least a subset of said shippers.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein each displayed data item in said derivative contract data is a bundle of data associated with a plurality of capacity offers from at least a subset of said shippers, said each displayed data item being associated with a single transportation mode, at least a first displayed data item in said derivative contract data is associated with a first transportation mode, at least a second displayed data item in said derivative contract data is associated with a second transportation mode, said second transportation mode being different from said first transportation mode.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein said plurality of offers are bundled into a derivate contract represented by said displayed data item in accordance to a geographic bundling criterion.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14 wherein said plurality of offers are bundled into a derivate contract represented by said displayed data item in accordance to a time frame bundling criterion.

16. (Previously presented) A method for facilitating freight shipment between a first geographic location and a second geographic location, the method comprising:

    displaying in a first data section of a browser window derivative contract data pertaining to shipment capacity offered by carriers between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said derivative contract data being associated with at least one of an air mode, a sea mode, a train mode, and a truck mode;

    displaying in a second data section of said browser window forecast data pertaining to demand forecasts between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said forecast data being provided by shippers, said second data section being configured to be viewed simultaneously with said first data section, said browser window being configured to be accessible via a computer network;

    receiving shipper assessment of accuracy of said forecast data from said shippers;

    sorting said forecast data by geography;

    sorting actual data by geography;

    comparing said forecast data with said actual data to calculate a forecast quality index; and

    publishing said shipper assessment and said forecast quality index.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

    receiving information restriction requirements from at least a participant, said information restriction requirements limiting a first specified information set to a first specified recipient set, said information restriction requirements limiting a second specified information set to a second specified recipient set, said first specified information set and said second specified information set pertaining to said participant, said first specified information set and said second specified information set being stored in said database, said participant representing at least one of a shipping party, a carrying party, a forwarding party, and a market making party;

providing said first specified information set to at least a recipient of said first specified recipient set based on said information restriction requirements, said first specified information set including at least one of shipment data and shipment forecast data;

providing said second specified information set to at least a recipient of said second specified recipient set based on said information requirements; and

preventing a party not in said first specified recipient set from viewing said first specified information set.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further including displaying in said second data section rating data associated with said forecast data, each rating in said rating data reflects at least one of a qualitative assessment of a forecast associated with said each rating and a quantitative assessment of said forecast associated with said each rating.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said qualitative assessment represents an aggregated value that takes into account qualitative assessments from different shippers.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said qualitative assessment is associated with a shipper that furnishes said forecast associated with said each rating and wherein said second data section includes an identity of said shipper that furnishes said forecast associated with said each rating.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said qualitative assessment includes at least four of a set of criteria that includes demand, manufacturing readiness, manufacturing location, capacity, product, lane, and lane stability.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said derivative contract data represents futures contract data.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said derivative contract data represents option contract data.

24. (Original) The method of claim 16 further including displaying in a third data section unfulfilled derivative contract order data, said third data section being configured to be view simultaneously with said first data section and said second data section.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further including displaying matched derivative contract order data in a third data section.

26. (Original) The method of claim 16 further including displaying in a third data section unfulfilled derivative contract order data and displaying in a fourth data section successfully matched derivative contract order data, said third data section and said fourth data section being configured to be view simultaneously with said first data section and said second data section.

27. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein a displayed data item in said derivative contract data represents a plurality of capacity offers from at least a subset of said shippers.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein each displayed data item in said derivative contract data is a bundle of data associated with a plurality of capacity offers from at least a subset of said shippers, said each displayed data item being associated with a single transportation mode, at least a first displayed data item in said derivative contract data is associated with a first transportation mode, at least a second displayed data item in said derivative contract data is associated with a second transportation mode, said second transportation mode being different from said first transportation mode.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein said plurality of offers are bundled into a derivate contract represented by said displayed data item in accordance to a geographic bundling criterion.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein said plurality of offers are bundled into a derivate contract represented by said displayed data item in accordance to a time frame bundling criterion.

31. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture ~~comprising a program storage medium having computer readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code being configured~~ for facilitating freight shipment between a first geographic location and a second geographic location, the article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable code for displaying in a first data section of a browser window derivative contract data pertaining to shipment capacity offered by carriers between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said derivative contract data being associated with at least one of an air mode, a sea mode, a train mode, and a truck mode; and

computer readable code for displaying in a second data section of said browser window forecast data pertaining to demand forecasts between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said forecast data being provided by shippers, said second data section being configured to be viewed simultaneously with said first data section, said browser window being configured to be accessible via a computer network;

computer readable code for receiving shipper assessment of accuracy of said forecast data from said shippers;

computer readable code for sorting said forecast data by geography;

computer readable code for sorting actual data by geography;

computer readable code for comparing said forecast data with said actual data to calculate a forecast quality index; ~~and~~

computer readable code for publishing said shipper assessment and said forecast quality index; and

<u>a program storage medium having computer software embodied therein, said computer software including said computer readable code for said displaying in the first data section, said computer readable code for said displaying in said second data section, said computer readable code for said receiving said shipper assessment of said accuracy, said computer readable code for said sorting forecast data by geography, said computer readable code for said sorting said actual data by geography, said computer readable code for said comparing, and said computer readable code for said publishing.</u>

32. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 31 further comprising: computer readable code for receiving information restriction requirements from at least a participant, said information restriction requirements limiting a first specified information set to a first specified

recipient set, said information restriction requirements limiting a second specified information set to a second specified recipient set, said first specified information set and said second specified information set pertaining to said participant, said first specified information set and said second specified information set being stored in said database, said participant representing at least one of a shipping party, a carrying party, a forwarding party, and a market making party;

computer readable code for providing said first specified information set to at least a recipient of said first specified recipient set based on said information restriction requirements, said first specified information set including at least one of shipment data and shipment forecast data;

computer readable code for providing said second specified information set to at least a recipient of said second specified recipient set based on said information requirements; and

computer readable code preventing a party not in said first specified recipient set from viewing said first specified information set.

33. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 31 further comprising computer readable code for displaying in said second data section rating data associated with said forecast data, each rating in said rating data reflects at least one of a qualitative assessment of a forecast associated with said each rating and a quantitative assessment of said forecast associated with said each rating.

34. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 33 wherein said qualitative assessment represents an aggregated value that takes into account qualitative assessments from different shippers.

35. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 33 wherein said qualitative assessment is associated with a shipper that furnishes said forecast associated with said each rating and wherein said second data section includes an identity of said shipper that furnishes said forecast associated with said each rating.

36. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 31 .wherein said qualitative assessment includes at least four of a set of criteria that includes demand, manufacturing readiness, manufacturing location, capacity, product, lane, and lane stability.

37. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 31 wherein said derivative contract data represents futures contract data.

38. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 31 wherein said derivative contract data represents option contract data.